[English]

Flood Control Works on Brahmaputra

3100. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the break up of allocation of funds for various flood control works on Brahmaputra from the 500 crores declared in the Prime Minister's package of October, 1996;

(b) the proposed percentage of reduction of Brahmaputra flood through Pagaladia Dam Project; and

(c) the total allocation for protection of Majuli Island and Brahmaputra basin ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) The proposed allocation of funds from the sum of Rs. 500 crore declared by the Prime Minister in October, 1996 for North-Eastern States are as follows :-

(i) Rs. 225 crores may be provided to the Brahmaputra Board to execute partially Pagladiya Dam Project and fully execute the Harang Drainage Project.

(ii) 10-15% of the Rs. 500 crore is to be allocated to other North- Eastern States other than the Assam State to carry out flood control measures and the balance amount goes to the Assam State for the execution of short term measures in the flood moderation works in their territory.

(b) After implementation of the Pagladiya Dam Project it is expected to yield flood control benefit to the tune of about Rs. 14 crore per annum besides providing assured irrigation to about 54,000 ha. of land. It will also able to protect the only rail link to the North-East and National Highway-31 which carry vital supplies and passenger traffic to the North-Eastern States.

(c) A sum of Rs. 60.65 lakh and Rs 24.10 lakh have been provided for river modelling of the river Brahmaputra at Majuli, segment of Majuli Island and for preparation of exclusive Master Plan for the Island respectively by Brahmaputra Board.

Route from Orissa to North East

3101. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Highway 2 or National Highway 6 passes through Baharamuri nearer to Jharagram in the district of Midnapur extend upto Raniganj via Bankura or Durgapur;

(b) if so, the distance from Orissa to North East will be the shortest route for communication and the time by which it will be completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Recognised Shankracharyas

3102. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of recognised Shankracharyas in the country at present;

(b) whether all these Shankracharyas are enjoying equal Government facilities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Irrigation Facilities to Farmers

3103. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVIN CHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently launched new scheme to provide irrigation facilities to small and marginal farmers living below the poverty line; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment launched a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Ganga Kalyan Yojana as a Sub-scheme of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) during 1996-97. The salient features of the scheme are as follows :-

(i) to provide irrigation through exploitation of ground water (borewell & tubewells) to individu-

als and groups of beneficiaries of small and marginal farmers living below the poverty line;

(ii) the individuals/groups are to be assisted through subsidy by Government and term credit by financial institutions;

(iii) under the scheme 80% funds are to be borne by the Central Government and 20% by the State Governments;

(iv) the funds are allocated among the States on the basis of poverty ratios and among the districts on the basis of recommendations of the State Governments;

(v) atleast 50% of the funds have been earmarked for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes) (STs)

(vi) under the scheme, 75% subsidy is allowed for SCs STs and physically disabled groups, and 50% for the others The Monetary ceiling on the subsidy per group is Rs 40,000/- in case of individual beneficiaries, subsidy is Rs. 5,000/- per acre of land under the scheme subject to a ceiling of Rs. 12,500/- per beneficiary The gap between the project cost and admissible subsidy has to be bridged with term credit by financial institutions or SC ST/BC Finance and Development Corporation;

(vii) the scheme is implemented by District Rural Development Authorities (DRDAs)/Zila Parishads (ZPs).

(viii) the scheme has become an independent scheme with effect from 1-4-1997;

(ix) during 1996-97 Rs 90 82 crores has been released under the scheme and the allocation of funds for 1997-98 is Rs 200.00 crores.

[Translation]

Russian Assistance to India

3104 SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Russia has sanctioned a loan worth 83.50 crore dollers as assistance to India in 1992 for the purchase of the Russian military equipments

(b) if so whether India has not utilised an amount of 35 crore dollers out of the above so far;

(c) if so the reasons therefor.

(d) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for the use of remaining loan amount;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b) On September 17, 1992 the Government of India and the Government of Russia signed an agreement under which the Russia extended a state credit for defence supplies to India equivalent to US dollars 830 million (83 crores). A part of this credit is still unutilised.

(c) to (f) The utilisation of the credit to finance projects under implementation and for the purchase of equipment from Russia for the Armed Forces of India is an on-going process based on India's defence priorities, a careful examination of the specific requirements of the Indian Armed Forces and regular consultations with the Russian Government to ascertain the possibility of meeting these requirements from Russia with a view to achieving the most optimal utilisation of available resources.

[English]

Appointment of Teachers

3105. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether the NDMC had invited applications for the post of Assistant Teachers recently;

(b) if so the number of persons invited for the said post for written examination.

(c) whether the Government are aware that irregularities are prevailing in the final selection for the said post. and

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to investigate the matter through some independent agency and if so by when and if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) (a) to (d) The New Delhi Municipal Council have intimated that applications for the post of Assistant Teachers were invited through open advertisement in August, 1996. In all 18,049 eligible candidates were invited for written examination. No irregularities have been reported to New Delhi Municipal Council